

Finches are said to feed their young upon insects, which is, in a measure, true. The species of *Fringilla*, *Passer*, and *Emberiza* even give soft caterpillars and spiders to their young as soon as they become feathered; but the Fringilline method of feeding is *from the crop*, and it is to a certain extent carried on even after the young leave the nest.

A. G. B.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Dates of Jacob Hübner's 'Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge.'*—Part I. By C. DAVIES SHERBORN. Part II. By Jno. HARTLEY DURRANT.

#### PART I.

AMONG some odd parts and numbers of different publications which were some years ago transferred as duplicates from the Library of the British Museum, Bloomsbury, to the Library of the British Museum (Natural History), occurs a portion of Hübner's 'European Butterflies' of great interest and value. This comprises:—

*Zweyte Horde.*—Sign. *b, c, d* (p. 32), and 2 unlettered signatures, Title, and the 2 Verzeichnisse (12 pp.). Total 44 pp.

*Sechste Horde.*—Sign. *a, b; a, b, c, d* (p. 32), and 1 unlettered signature, Title &c. (4 pp.). Total 36 pp.

*Achte Horde.*—Sign. *b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k* (p. 80), and 1 unlettered signature (*a*) (4 pp.). Total 84 pp.

Plates 1–60 of Geometers [figs. 1–312].

„ 1–16 of Sphinges [figs. 1–78].

„ 1–34 of Tineæ [figs. 1–237].

„ 1–16 of Tortrices [figs. 1–104].

„ 1–20 of Pyralides [figs. 1–134].

Pinned on to the titlepage of “*Sechste Horde*,” with an old pin with the twisted wire head, is a manuscript of two quarto pages, in a handwriting I cannot identify, containing the following information:—

“Mr. Francillon has got only the Letter Press of Mr. Jacob Hubner's work on Insects from Page 1 Pyralides Pseudogeometræ, No. 1 Pyralis Emortalis—To page 30—No. 26 Pyralis Rufimitalis with an Index to this part from Pseudogeometræ page 1–7 to Verticalis 22 D 3, and in another part of Letter press from page 4 Pyralides Pseudogeometræ—Pyralides Ambigui—to page 15 No. 48 Pyralis Farinalis.

“This is all my Friend and myself have got of the Letter Press,

“The following is the Account of all the plates I have got, Viz<sup>t</sup>.

“Tiniæ No. 1 Graminella to No. 209 Struthionipenes in all 30 plates.

Tortrices No. 1–2 Pariana to No. 104 Nebulana in all . 16 plates.

Pyralides No. 1 Emortalis to No. 134 Radiatalis in all 20 plates.

Sphinges No. 1 Chimera to No. 74 Populi in all . . . . 15 plates.

Geometræ No. 1 Smaragdaria to No. 98 Remutaria in all 18 plates.

Plate 19 and 20 is wanting.

Geometræ No. 111 Rubicaria to No. 120 Piniaria in all . . 2 plates.”

On the second page of manuscript is the following:—

“Decr. 24, 1799.

“Mr. Olivier’s Account of Mr. Hubners work up to the above time :

“ Shinges [ <i>sic</i> ] . . . . .	17 plates	} with Letter Press.
Pyralides . . . . .	21 Do.	
Tinia . . . . .	37 Do.	} Letter press not yet Published.
Geometræ . . . . .	59 Do.	
Tortrices . . . . .	29 Do.	
Larva . . . . .	12 Do.	

Total . . . . 175 Plates completed, of which I and Dr. Latham have only the Following :

Geometræ . . . . .	20 plates.
Sphinges . . . . .	15 Do.
Pyralides . . . . .	20
Tortrices . . . . .	16
Tinia . . . . .	30

Total . . . . 101 Plates received.”

Here we have therefore a definite and careful account of no less than four copies of Hübner’s work before 24th Dec., 1799, a great step in advance; and this account agrees somewhat closely with the statements of Herrich-Schäffer in ‘*Corr.-Blatt Regensburg*,’ 23, 1869, p. 175, and completely with the portion acquired from the British Museum (Bloomsbury).

Now it is interesting to note that the titles and prefaces of these three portions (2, 6, and 8 Horde) are all dated 1796, while the titlepage of the 5th Horde is dated 1796, but the preface is dated 1800. The writer of the MS. had not met with the 5th Horde simply because it had not appeared by Dec. 24, 1799, but did so after 12th Jan., 1800. From these facts it appears highly probable that in this portion from the British Museum (Bloomsbury) we have a *complete and entire* example of Hübner’s *first* distribution, and I shall accept it as dating from 1796 and not later. Horde 5 I accept as dated 1800, and that is so far as I am at present prepared to go. The date of the ‘*Zeifer*’ will require some examination, those of the ‘*Nachträge*,’ “4th and 7th” Horde, do not appear to offer any difficulties.

With the plates I am not concerned, having given my reasons for rejecting names on plates unaccompanied by letterpress in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1896, p. 612. I do, however, record them in my ‘*Index Animalium*.’

C. DAVIES SHERBORN.

## PART II.

In February 1892 Lord Walsingham purchased a copy of Hübner’s ‘*Europäischer Schmetterlinge*’ from Mr. Quaritch (Rough List 120, No. 598). This copy came from the library of E. Bellier de la Chavignerie and was accompanied by MS. indexes and coarse blue paper covers, the latter giving precise information as to the dates of

reception of the later parts of the work : whether these covers were in any way connected with the issue of the 'Sammlung' I am unable to say. Unfortunately some are missing, but, as supplementing Mr. Sherborn's valuable discovery, it is thought advisable to publish the information gathered from a study of this interesting copy.

Should any other copy contain similar notes, however fragmentary, it is to be hoped that they may be published at once, for it would appear that the many difficulties encountered in a study of the works of Hübner are gradually disappearing.

### I. *Papiliones*. Pl. 1-207.

Pl. 198-207 are noted in pencil "hubner-Geyer." Cover missing ; 5 pp. MS. Index to the Sammlung and Geschichte.

### II. *Sphinges*. Pl. 1-38.

In MS. on cover of coarse blue paper :—

"Sphynge, hübner. Catalogue Alphabetique des Sphinx figurés par hübner avec le renvoi aux numeros des planches, tout des Sphinx que de leurs larves, la première colonne renvoie au No. des pl. des Sphinx La Sec<sup>e</sup>. au No. des pl. des chenilles. Au Nombre des chenilles figurées se trouve—celle nommée *Ericce* pl. 2 dont le Sphinx n'est pas figuré."

"en Novembre 1827 j'ai reçu les dernières planches supplémentaires qui ont paru jusqu'à ce jour ; au Novembre de 35 pour les Sphi[nx] et 27 pour les chenilles."

"du 28. 9bre. 1828 reçu une nouvelle pl. No. 36."

"en décembre 1829 reçu une planche nouvelle sur laquelle est représenté la chenille du Sphinx Dahlii." [= Pl. 28.]

Then follow 4 pp. of MS. index to both works, concluding with the additional note :—"Supplement reçu le 22 fevrier 1840 Achilleæ 37"—"hilaris 38."

### III. *Bombyces*. Pl. 1-83.

In MS. on cover of coarse blue paper :—

"Catalogue Alphabetique des Bombix d'Europe et de leurs chenilles figurés par hubner avec le renvoi aux Nos. des planches La 1<sup>re</sup> Colonne renvoie au No. des planches des Bombix la 2<sup>e</sup> Colonne renvoie au No. des planches des chenilles. la 3<sup>e</sup> Colonne renvoie au No. de l'espece dans l'Encyclopedie Methodique tom V. des insectes. le nombre des planches de Bombix est de 70. sur lesquelles sont figurés 298 individus.

"le nombre des planches de chenilles de 70 au nombre des chenilles figurées, il y a celles des Bombyx *fascelina*, *Lunigera* et *unita* dont on ne trouve pas les figures des Bombix."

"j'ai reçu, les dernières livraisons de supplement jusques y compris les pl. 70 des Bombix et 70 de leurs chenilles en Novembre 1827.

"du 28. 9<sup>bre</sup> 1828 reçu les nouvelles planches 71, 72, 73 et 74."

“ en décembre 1829 reçu deux planches les 75 et 76, les especes en sont inseriter à leur places.”

“ en avril 1831, j'ai reçu un supplement de 4 planches les 77, 78, 79 et 80<sup>e</sup>.”

“ En tout 83 planches.”

IV. *Noctua*. Pl. 1-185.

Cover missing—no dates: 9 pp. MS. index to both works.

V. *Geometra*. Pl. 1-113.

Pl. 110-13 noted in pencil “ Geyer.” Cover missing—no dates: 6 pp. MS. index to both works.

VI. *Pyrallides*. Pl. 1-32.

In MS. on cover of coarse blue paper:—

“ Pyralideæ.

“ du 20 juillet 1832 reçu une planche, la 31.

“ du 20 mars 1834 reçu la planche 32 à porter a la table ? ”

No MS. index.

VII. *Tortrices*. Pl. 1-53.

In MS. on cover of coarse blue (faded) paper: “ Table des Tortrices (d'hübner) et de leurs chenilles.”

“ en avril 1831 reçu une partie de texte, et 4 planches qui sont les 49, 50, 51 et 52<sup>e</sup>.” \*

“ du 20 mars 1834 reçu la pl. 53. à porter à la table.”

Then follow 6 pp. of MS. index to both works.

VIII. *Tineæ*. Pl. 1-71.

In MS. on cover of coarse blue paper:—

“ Tineæ, 69 planches (avril 1827) table alphabetique ; et Psyche

du 20 juillet 1832 reçu la pl. 70.”

Then follow 10 pp. of MS. index to both works, in which pl. 71 is referred to as “ supplément.”

\* [This part is reviewed, *Isis*, xxvi. (Heft 7) 674 (1833):—“ Sammlung europäischer Schmetterlinge, errichtet von Jac. Hübner, fortges. von K. Geyer. Augsburg b. Verf. Heft 1, 30, 4, 16, 5 T. ill.” . . . . . “ Abgebildet sind hier *Tortrix dimidiana* ” . . . . . “ *ambustana*.” [i. e. *dimidiana*, Pl. 48. fig. 299—*ambustana*, Pl. 52, fig. 333.] The collation of “ Heft 1 ” is not easy to follow unless the “ 30 ” represents 1830, in which case it should be read thus:—“ Heft 1 ” (of vii Horde. Die Wickler); “ 30 ” (= 1830); “ 4 ” (= title pp. (2) + Geyer's preface, pp. iii-iv [= 4 pp.]); “ 16 ” (= Die Wickler by Frölich, pp. 1-16); “ 5 T. ill.” (= Pl. 48-52. fig. 299-333).

The MS. collation of the part received in April 1831 enumerates only “ 4 planches qui sont les 49, 50, 51 et 52<sup>e</sup>,” while the ‘*Isis*’ collation enumerates 5 plates (= 48-52), and Geyer, preface, p. iv, writes “ Die Abbildungen der fünf hier folgenden Tafeln ” &c. I merely note the discrepancy without attempting to explain it.]

IX. *Alucitæ*. Pl. 1-7.

No cover nor index.

It is to be regretted that the covers of Papiliones, Noctuæ, Geometræ, and Alucitæ have been lost, as we are thus unable to ascertain the exact contents of the different parts: but it may be not uninteresting to reconstruct the parts indicated so far as we are enabled to do so by the MS. notes, hoping that additional information may be obtained from other copies of Hübner's 'Sammlung.'

*Sammlung.*

Date of reception.	Contents ascertained.
April 1827 . . . . .	<i>Tinea</i> , Pl. 69.
November 1827 . . . . .	<i>Sphinx</i> , Pl. 35; <i>Bombyx</i> , Pl. 70.
28th November 1828 . .	<i>Sphinx</i> , Pl. 36; <i>Bombyx</i> , Pl. 71-74.
December 1829 . . . . .	<i>Bombyx</i> , Pl. 75-76.
April 1831 . . . . .	<i>Bombyx</i> , Pl. 77-80; <i>Tortrix</i> , TEXT (pp. iv + 16), Pl. 49-52. [? Pl. 48-52, teste Isis & Geyer.]
20th July 1832 . . . . .	<i>Pyralis</i> , Pl. 31; <i>Tinea</i> , Pl. 70.
20th March 1834 . . . . .	<i>Pyralis</i> , Pl. 32; <i>Tortrix</i> , Pl. 53.
22nd February 1840 . .	<i>Sphinx</i> , Pl. 37-38.

*Geschichte.*

November 1827 . . . . .	<i>Sphinx</i> , Pl. 27; <i>Bombyx</i> , Pl. 70.
December 1829 . . . . .	<i>Sphinx</i> , Pl. 28.

The following dates of reception may be of service to synonymists:—

*Sammlung.*

<i>Sphinx</i> —	fig. 156-160 (Pl. 35), November 1827.
	fig. 161-164 (Pl. 36), 28th November 1828.
	fig. 165-173 (Pl. 37-38), 22nd February 1840.
<i>Bombyx</i> —	fig. 295-298 (Pl. 70), November 1827.
	fig. 299-314 (Pl. 71-74), 28th November 1828.
	fig. 315-322 (Pl. 75-76), December 1829.
	fig. 323-340 (Pl. 77-80), April 1831.
<i>Pyralis</i> —	fig. 193-200 (Pl. 31), 20th July 1832.
	fig. 201-207 (Pl. 32), 20th March 1834.
<i>Tortrix</i> —	[fig. 299-305 (Pl. 48), ? April 1831.]
	fig. 306-333 (Pl. 49-52), TEXT (pp. iv + 16), April 1831.
<i>Tinea</i> —	fig. 451-457 (Pl. 69), April 1827.
	fig. 464-470 (Pl. 70), 20th July 1832.

*Geschichte.*

<i>Sphinx</i> —	Pl. 27 (November 1827); Pl. 28 (December 1829).
<i>Bombyx</i> —	Pl. 70 (November 1827).

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